

/********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *********

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 22 JANUARY
1994.

CONTENTS

- 1. HAITI: RIGHTWING GROUPS MANEUVERING FOR POSITION

 2.

 3.

 1. HAITI: RIGHTWING GROUPS MANEUVERING FOR POSITION

THE FAR RIGHT AND POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS CONTINUE TO FAVOR A QUASICONSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO SIDELINING ARISTIDE BY HAVING THE LEGISLATURE INVOKE ARTICLE 148, WHICH WOULD TRANSFER EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY TO A NEW PRIME MINISTER.

LEADERS OF THE RIGHTIST GROUP FRAPH REJECTED CEDRAS' REQUEST TO ATTEND THE RECENT PROMILITARY CONFERENCE, THEREBY KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN TO PURSUE AN INDEPENDENT COURSE. FRAPH ALSO REPORTEDLY

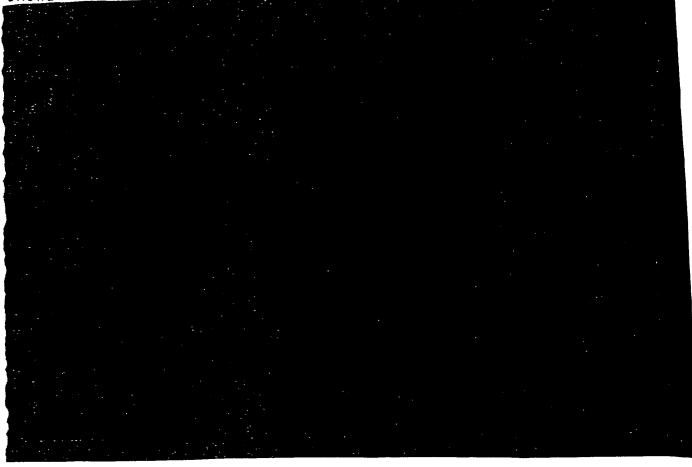
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PAGE: 0550

HAS BEEN TRYING TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE LEGISLATURE BY CO-OPTING NINE ANTI-ARISTIDE LEGISLATORS AND OFFERING OTHER DEPUTIES POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.



FRAPH'S GROWING STRENGTH MAY IMPEL MILITARY LEADERS TO CLOSE THE LEGISLATURE AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS DESIGNED TO REIN IN THE RIGHT. A SEIZURE OF POWER MAY RESULT IN MORE OPEN CONFLICT WITHIN THE MILITARY--ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE HIGH COMMAND AND FRANCOIS--AND INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A REVOLT BY DISAFFECTED ELEMENTS.



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